# President's Radio Interview on Foreign and Domestic Issues

### Nuclear Weapons

Q. Mr. President, shortly before to-day's announcement that U.S.-Soviet negotiators would meet in Geneva March 12, one of your top advisers to those talks, Ambassador Nitze, said that he could not say that chances for an agreement are very good. Is that so?

and no olded hot say unat channes and agreement are very good. Is that an agreement are very good. Is that an agreement are very good. Is that on the property of the property

have said — tnat tury would be see the elimination of nuclear weapons entirely.

Q. So if I could just ask you — you do think there's a chance for you are the seed of the see

### Chernenko's Health

Chernenko's Health
Q. Mr. President, there are persistent reports from Western capitals about the health of President Chernenko, Some reports even asy he had subtract and can you say, sir, what affect his long-sivity and apparent infirmity may have on the talks?
A. Well, in the first part of that, can only say that, we know no more that there are volces and some from within Russia that have indicated to others in conversation that perhaps his illness is quite serious. I don't know whether that would have an effect on these talks or not. The very health of the conversation that here are feet on these talks or not. The very health of the conversation that here is that here are for the serious. I don't when whether that would have an effect on these talks or not. The very health of the conversation that was given to setting a date and so forth, they've come forth with a date and named their negotiators would lead me to believe that, not, they intend to go forward.

Hudget 4 menufiment

### **Budget Amendment**

and named their regotators who the index of the constitution of the constitution. You couldn't submit a bidget—a balanced budget yourself because utting that much suddenly would hurt too many people. But you'll leave your successor, possby, a bidget—a balanced budget yourself because who was the cust and the constitution a year. Wouldn't the Constitution are mendment require him or her to make cuts so large that they would do that you don't want to do which is hurt many people? A submitted and town the campaign when I was accused of never having submitted a balanced budget since I've been here, I had to wonder how they had then ever to say that. The President has no right to spend money. The Constitution of the const

content in wording that the communist block, our activities in the Middle East, we know that might be communisted in the communist block, our activities in the Middle East, we know that might be communication and the specific date in minimize that threat and to work with our allies in the other means to lead to entreprise must be part of the proposed when the minimize that threat and to more too great started on this path, with some to get started on this path, with some to get started on this path, with some to get started on this path, with some too get started on the path, with some too great started on this path, with some too great started on the path, with some too great started on the path, with some too great started on this path, with some too great started on the path of propose the balanced budget amendment?

A. No, because we're still trying
now to get started on this path, with
the budget we'll be taking up to the
Congress, but we think we're going to
meet our goals with regard to a \$50
billion reduction and the 4p ercent fig.
think we can keep on the other track,
don't believe that I'll be leaving a
budget deficit quite as large as some
of, the prognostications, and I would
just like to qualify that by saying that
if you will look back over these last
four years most of the projections
have been greater, as to deficit and so
forth, than we have achieved.

yesterday that any deficit reduction plant is going to be in real trouble unless you hold down the growth in defense syending. The Pentagon review of the property of the country. How are you going to possibly get meaningful deficit-reduction plant should be provided the property of the country. How are you going to possibly get meaningful deficit-reduction plant shrough Coingress when there's such a hard Republican allies in Congress?

A. Well, I saw Bob on television saying some of those things, and I think sometimes the shading and then quoting him later in the printed property of the printed printed property of the printed printed property of the printed prin



President Reagan checking the text of his speech yesterday before his radio broadcast from Washington.

the youth opportunity aid, pay scale, we want a lower minimum wage for teen-agers that are out there looking for their first jobs. And the heaviest segment of unemployment in the United States is among black teenagers.

we've done with the minimum wage right now is price out of the job market young people without job training who are out there looking for the first job.

Q. Were you suggesting that there's no longer a need for organizations the control of the first job.

Q. Were you suggesting that there's no longer a need for organizations for the first job.

A. I'm not going to name the organizations but I'm going to say something about redirecting their efforts. A number of the organizations. I'm a little older than the rest of you and it is the second of the control of the control

## Central America

Central America

Q. Sir, 1'd like to move on to the issue of Central America. You said the other day Nicaragua is receiving support from Iran's Khomeini reguport and the other day Nicaragua is receiving the contract of the support of the support

sons that have to do with our relations with the Communist bloc, our activities in the Middle East. We know that our people wordwide have been targeted, and we're doing everything we can to minimize that threat and to work with our allies in the other democratic nations to try and exchange intelligence information to see if we can't irreat with tose criminals the way we treat with other criminals the way we treat with other criminals the way we for interpol.

### Policy on Terrorism

Q. Let me get back to the subject of terrorism for a moment here, and remind you that four years ago comorous was when you redcomed to the was when you redcomed to the was when you redcomed to the was when you well comed to the common you said, let terrorists be aware bomen from Iran During that ceremony, you said, let terrorists be aware than when international law is broken American policy will be one of swift and effective retribution. On boyously since that time some awful things and our diplomates and our diplomates and our mainter and our diplomates and our citizens have been kidapaped. I wooder, sir, there's been no public sign of American retailation that you spoke of four past four years that you we found that it's actually somewhat impossible for us to deal out swift and effective retribution?

A. Well, let me just say that it's — I referred to them as criminals a little was the work of the work

O. Well, if could just quickly ask you then, are you suggesting — I understand your inability to talk in specifics — but are you suggesting that the case is not closed on Berirt, and you suggesting that the case is not closed on Berirt, and you supposed to our matrices and your supposed to our matrices and your supposed to the case in the case is not closed to have a supposed to the case of the case

### Ambassador to U.N.

A. No, we had an earlier meeting, and agreed to come back after the inauguration and talk about this.
Q. You wouldn't like to tell us what job you're going to offer her, would you?

Who. But the press is trying to preted that they know what sort of jobs I'm going to offer. No. And I haven't said anything to her or to anyone else about that particular subject, so I am as amazed with the stories that are appearing as I can be.

### Arms Agreement

Arms Agreement
Q. You sald twice in recent days
that the U.S. would abide by the unratified SALT II agreement. The
Navy Secretary says he's waiting for
a decision from you on the next action
required to say within SALT limits
Have you made that decision, and has
it been communicated to the Defense
Department?
A. No, what he's talking about is the
fact that as we continue with our fitfact that as we continue with our fitfact by the same say the same say
which is the same say to the
fact that as we continue with our fitfact that as we continue with our fitfact hat as we continue with our fitfact that as we continue with this, and
would then have to find this, and
would then have to find that or
discuss whether we actually go above,
and in that regard, we have to take
into consideration that the Sovice
into, one side and the same say
within the limits. Now, do we want to
ign them in that and forget the whole
idea, or do we want to take to the
about going forward? But the — we
haven't made a decision because, as I
haven the same a decision because, as I
haven the same a decision because and
it's a few Tifdent submarines away
from where we are now.

Relations With Blacks

grams are hurting poor people, many of whom are black, and I—that just doesn't square with the statement that it's a misperception, that all the particular of the properties of the properties

### Blacks in South Africa

Q. South African President P. W. Botha has indicated plans to change some aspects of the Government's apartheid policy, for example, limited political participation for blacks living outside the so-called homeland areas. What is your reaction to this? Do you consider this a major, minor

areas. What is your reaction to this? Do you consider this a major, minor or no step at all toward freedom for the state of the state o

## Nicaragua Plans

Nicaragua Plans

Qi Back to your answer about Nicaragua being a base for terorism. You've said that American troops and the plant of th

cuss whether we actually go above, and in that regard, we have to take into consideration that the Survey of the consideration that the Survey of the consideration that the Covice of t

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